Good morning/afternoon --- I’m happy to kick off our 2019 Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Fundraising Campaign: Ready, Relevant, Responsive. The success of this year’s campaign depends on the personal commitment of each one of us. We need your support.

The campaign will run through 13 September, and your Campaign Coordinator/Key Worker will get you all the details for participating.

WHY CGMA?
CGMA serves as the principle source of financial assistance to all members of the Coast Guard family.

This includes Active Duty, Reserve and Retired military personnel, Civilian and NAF employees; Auxiliary members, surviving family members, Public Health Service officers and Chaplains serving with the Coast Guard.

When shipmates and their families face tough and unexpected situations, CGMA is READY to help, RELEVANT to the need, and RESPONSIVE in any situation.

HOW does CGMA help?
CGMA provides a wide range of Disaster and Emergency Assistance, Family Support and Education Programs. Assistance is given primarily through interest-free loans and grants.

Last year, CGMA provided over 5,200 loans and grants totaling more than $5.4 million. Locally (local $$$ stats)* was provided to personnel right here at (your unit/region).

In response to Hurricanes Florence and Michael, CGMA stepped up with over $ 2.5 million in support of 1,000 CG affected families. And during the lapse in appropriations in January, CGMA provided $8.4 million is assistance in just one month.

Many of you are very familiar with CGMA’s long standing assistance programs. You or someone you know has likely received assistance for an emergency car repair, rent payment or medical bill. You may also know CGMA for their popular Supplemental Education Grand (SEG) program. This great program provides up to $500 each year for fees, textbook and supplies.

But CGMA has other education programs as well.

There’s the CGMA Education Loan. It offers up to $3,000, interest-free, to help with education expenses including tuition. And there’s also a program to reimburse loan origination fees for federal (Stafford) student and parent (PLUS) loans.

Tutor.com is a newer CGMA program that provides online, one-on-one tutoring funded by Mutual Assistance. Tutors are qualified to help students from Kindergarten through college in a wide range of subjects (over 60; many in Spanish). They can also provide help with resume writing and test prep for ACT/SAT. This program is currently available for active duty, and Reserve clients, their spouses and dependent children.
Education Programs are a major initiative for CGMA. By supporting higher education, these programs foster long-term financial stability. Altogether, CGMA provided over $988,610 in education assistance last year.

Other CGMA family support services include newborn baby supplies, and free, professional financial counseling. In recent years, CGMA has launched several new programs. The PCS Loan program offers up to $1,000 to help with incidental expenses associated with a PCS move. The PCS Child Care Program which helps defray childcare expenses incurred during a PCS move.

*Netforum Summary Report for December 2018, Year to Date*

CGMA will provide financial assistance to members who are faced with out of pocket costs for the shipment of breast milk while away from home due to TDY, being underway, traveling on government business or excused absences. Spouses traveling on business for their job are also eligible.

These are just a few highlights of the MANY kinds of assistance available. If you need assistance, please contact your CGMA Representative, (name of Rep.). They’re here and ready to help.

**NEED for donations**

CGMA is the only organization solely dedicated to providing essential financial assistance to the entire Coast Guard family. CGMA is donor sustained and does not receive any Coast Guard or other government funds. Its financial stability depends on your contributions. In reality, we are CGMA: the commitment to watch out for the welfare of our shipmates and coworkers must come from you and me. You can be proud of your role in CGMA; it’s who we are and what we do!

When you give, you are equipping CGMA to provide valuable support to members of the Coast Guard family. When you give, you are supporting those shipmates and co-workers with real needs who are experiencing some tough circumstances, perhaps weathering a temporary financial difficulty, or suffering from a natural disaster. When you give, you are looking after your own!

**WHAT is your part?**

CGMA is a great organization with a proven record of response in times of need. It is a long-standing and reliable resource. **As you are able, please give your support.** Since the campaign only runs one month each year, please be ready when you are approached by your Key Worker.

Over the years, I have found that starting an allotment or payroll deduction is a good way to help our shipmates and co-workers. I encourage you to consider this convenient method for contributing. And this is a great time of year to bump up your allotment or deduction. Every donation makes a difference for your shipmates.

Thank you for your attention today. You have my personal commitment to support CGMA ... and I hope you will offer yours as well. Now, I’ll turn the meeting over to (name of local campaign coordinator) who will share some specific information about CGMA.

(transition to 2019 Campaign PowerPoint).